Import of food items

†180. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names and quantities of food items, which Government has imported in the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the import price of the said items and the procurement price of these indigenously produced food items offered by Government to the farmers;

(c) the quantity of food items perished or turned inedible for want of proper facility in the country; and

(d) whether the quantity of import can be reduced by improving storage system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of staff in F.C.I. in Orissa

181. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are inadequate number of employees with the Food Corporation of India located in Orissa; and

(b) the extent to which the procurement operations in Orissa are going to be hampered by such deficiency of personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has allowed filling up of 1413 posts in Category-II and III against Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP) of FCI from 2003-04 to 2008-09.

(b) Orissa is a Decentralized Procurement State and the State agencies are presently responsible for paddy procurement. However, on the request of Government of Orissa, FCI has opened 80 paddy procurement centres in the State. There is no report of paddy procurement in Orissa getting hampered due to shortage of staff.

National programmes to provide food to BPL families

182. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large population in the country do not have proper meal;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that several National programmes are implemented for providing food to the families of below poverty line in rural and urban areas; and

(c) if so, the details of these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government implements several schemes/programmes for making subsidized food grains available to indentified poor families/individuals. Their details are as follows:

1. **Targeted Public Distribution System:**

   Government is allocating food grains at subsidized rates for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration card holder families under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Under this, food grains are allocated to the States/UTs @ 35 Kg per BPL/AAY family per month. Depending upon availability of food grains in the Central pool, they are also allocated for APL category of ration card holders. Presently, allocations of food grains under this category range from 10 to 35 Kg per family per month. During 2009-10, total 190.2 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated to States/UTs under APL category.

2. Under Annapurna scheme implemented by Ministry of Rural Development through State/UT Governments, indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are not getting old age pension, are provided 10 Kg of food grains per person per month free of cost. 94,970 tons of food grains have been allocated to States/UTs under the scheme during 2009-10.

3. Under the Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) implemented by Department of Food & Public Distribution through the State Government of Orissa in eight KBK Districts of the State, food grains (rice) at BPL rates are allocated to the State Government for approximately 2 lakh beneficiaries in these districts. 18,000 tons of rice have been allocated under this scheme during 2009-10.

4. To provide safeguard against starvation during natural calamity and lean season, under the Village Grain Bank Scheme implemented by the Department of Food & Public Distribution through the State Governments, food grains are allocated free of cost by Government to States. So far 18,506 Village Grain Banks have been sanctioned in 20 States.

5. The Government also makes allocation of food grains to States/UTs through the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development under Midday Meal scheme for providing food to school children studying in primary and upper primary levels. 27.73 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated under the scheme during 2009-10.

6. Under the Integrated Child Development Scheme implemented by Ministry of Women & Child Development through State/UT Governments aimed at improving the nutritional status of children below 6 years of age and expectant/lactating women, 9.26 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated during 2009-10.

7. Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls is another programme implemented by Ministry of Women & Child Development through State Governments for improving the status of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-19 years. During current year, 53,371 tons of food grains under the scheme have been allocated to States/UTs.

8. Under the Scheme for Welfare Institutions, Government makes allocation of food grains to States/UTs for meeting requirements of food grains of welfare institutions. During current year, 1.37 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated to various States/UTs under the scheme.

9. Under the Scheme for SC/ST/OBC Hostels, Government makes allocation of food grains to States/UTs for meeting requirements of food grains of SC/ST/OBC Hostels. During current year, 1.50 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated to various States/UTs under the scheme.

Storage capacity of FCI godowns

183. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the foodgrain storage capacity in metric tonnes, of FCI in the country, Statewise;

(b) the details of foodgrains stored in the FCI godowns in the country, Statewise;

(c) whether FCI godowns have space to store fresh stocks that are to come very soon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As on 31.10.2009, FCI is having a total storage capacity of 278.59 lac MT (Owned & Hired/Covered & CAP). The total quantity of foodgrains stored by FCI is 214.46 lac MT as on 31.10.2009. Details showing State-wise storage capacity and stocks held by FCI as on 31.10.2009 are given in the enclosed Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ No. 179 (Part (b)]

(c) and (d) No Sir. If wheat procurement in RMS 2010-11 follows the trend of procurement in RMS 2009-10, the present storage capacity may not be adequate to store wheat stocks. As on 31.10.2009, approximately 64.13 lac MT space is available with FCI to store fresh stocks.